

## Patent claims

1. A sealing device for a tank access opening, in particular on fuel tank filler necks in motor vehicles, characterized in that a ball (5) is displaceably supported inside the tank access opening (3) in such a way that on introduction of a fuel nozzle (10) the ball (5) opens the tank access opening (3).

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2. The sealing device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the ball (5) is supported on a guideway, which is aligned at an acute angle ( $\alpha$ ) to the direction of insertion of the fuel nozzle (10)

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3. The sealing device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the ball (5) is guided in a sleeve (7).

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4. The sealing device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a sealing ring (4), against which the ball (5) rests in a sealing position, is arranged at the access opening (3).

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5. The sealing device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the ball diameter is greater than the diameter of the tank access opening (3).

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6. The sealing device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the ball (5) is acted upon by a force and in particular spring-loaded in the direction of the tank access opening (3).

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7. The sealing device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a counterweight (19) is assigned to the ball (5) to compensate for acceleration forces.

8. The sealing device as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the counterweight (19) is coupled to the ball (5) by way of a lever (9).

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9. The sealing device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the sealing device (1) takes the form of a module, which can be fixed to a fuel tank filler neck (2).